

The present application includes a claim of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. Application Serial Number 09/436,317, filed November 8, 1999. "An application for patent for an invention disclosed in the manner provided by the first paragraph of section 112 of this title in an application previously filed in the United States, . . . which is filed by an inventor or inventors named in the previously filed application shall have the same effect as to such invention, as though filed on the date of the prior application . . ." 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thomas J. Nelson is the inventor of both of the respective applications and claims 1-25 presently pending are fully supported by the disclosure in prior Application Serial No. 09/436,317. (See p. 22, ll. 14 - 16; p. 23, l. 22 - p. 24, l. 1; p. 25, l. 20 - p. 26, l. 1; p. 27, ll. 6 - 10; and Figure 18, all of which have an original filing date of November 8, 1999.) Therefore, claims 1-25 enjoy the benefit of the November 8, 1999, filing date of Application Serial No. 09/436,317, such that WO 00/20706 is not prior art to claims 1-25.

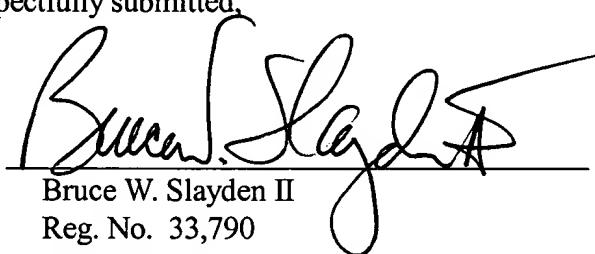
Conclusion

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-25 are patentable in view of the art. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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Bruce W. Slayden II
Reg. No. 33,790
Baker Botts L.L.P.
One Shell Plaza
910 Louisiana
Houston, Texas 77002-4995
Telephone: (713) 229-1786
Facsimile: (713) 229-7886
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT